

Message Text

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43

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 FBIE-00 DHA-02

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FM AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0870

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS MAZATLAN 359

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJ: POSSIBLE PRISONER HUNGER STRIKE

REF: MAZATLAN'S 0353 AND MEXICO'S 10636

1. THERE FOLLOWS UNSIGNED LETTER SENT TO MAZATLAN PRISONER WITH NOTATIONS THAT LETTER SHOULD BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL AMERICANS. HEADING ON LETTER QUOTE A LETTER TO ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS INCARCERATED IN MEXICAN PRISONS UNQUOTE.

2. LETTER READS QUOTE THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO ARE CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF A JOINT PRISONER EXCHANGE. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS WILL RESULT IN THE EXCHANGE OF MEXICAN NATIONALS INCARCERATED IN THE UNITED STATES AND AMERICAN NATIONALS INCARCERATED IN MEXICO TO THEIR RESPECTIVE

COUNTRIES. WE FEEL THAT THIS WOULD BE A REASONABLE SOLUTION TO ALL PARTIES INVOLVED ON THE FOLLOWING GROUNDS:

1. THE PRISONERS TO BE EXCHANGED WOULD RETURN TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES AS PRISONERS, AND THUS WOULD NOT BE GETTING RELEASED UNCONDITIONALLY.

2. IN HIS OWN COUNTRY, THE PRISONER WOULD NOT BE SO SUBJECT TO THE DIFFICULTIES AND DISCRIMINATION REGARDING ONE'S LANGUAGE

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AND CULTURE, AS WHEN IMPRISONED IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY. THE PRISONER ALSO WOULD NOT BE SO ISOLATED FROM HIS FAMILY.

3. THE RELATIVES OF THE PRISONER COULD VISIT HIM WITH LESS DIFFICULTY AND EXPENSE.

BECAUSE WE HAVE HEARD MANY PROMISES FROM THE TWO RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS, BUT HAVE SEEN NOTHING AS FAR AS ACTIONS, WE HAVE REASON TO DOUBT THE SINCERITY OF THESE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS.

THEREFORE, IF THE PROPOSED PRISONER EXCHANGE BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT BEGUN DE FACTO BY SEPTEMBER 15, 1976, ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS IN MEXICO WHO WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROPOSED PRISONER EXCHANGE ARE REQUESTED TO BEGIN A COMPLETE HUNGER STRIKE UNTIL ARRIVING IN THE UNITED STATES AS EXCHANGED PRISONERS, OR UNTIL DEATH.

THE REQUEST IS SIMPLE. IT IS MERELY THAT THE AMERICAN PRISONERS

IN MEXICO CHOOSE TO RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES AS PRISONERS TO SERVE THEIR SENTENCES RATHER THAN TO REMAIN IN MEXICAN PRISONS.

IT IS FURTHERMORE REQUESTED THAT, IF YOU ARE AN AMERICAN WHO IS PLANNING TO EVENTUALLY RETURN TO CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS DRUG TRAFFICKING, THEN PLEASE DO NOT PARTICIPATE EITHER IN THE HUNGER STRIKE OR THE PRISONER EXCHANGE. WE, AS PARENTS, RELATIVES, AND LOVED ONES OF THE AMERICAN PRISONERS IN MEXICO WANT IT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT WE ARE NOT IN ANY WAY WORKING FOR THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS WHO INTEND TO RETURN TO A LIFE OF CRIME. IF THIS WERE THE CASE, THEN WE WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY ASSIST THE AMERICAN PRISONERS IN MEXICAN PRISONS.

4. SENTENCE IN CAPITAL LETTERS READS QUOTE SO, HUNGER STRIKE UNTIL THE PRISONER EXCHANGE ----OR UNTIL DEATH, BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 7, 1976 UNQUOTE .

PENCILED NOTATION ON BOTTOM OF LETTER READS QUOTE PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL AMERICANS UNQUOTE.

5. ENCLOSURE WITH LETTER IS ENTITLED QUOTE TIPS ON HUNGER-STRIKING FROM AN AMERICAN ESCAPEE FROM MEXICO UNQUOTE. UNCLASSIFIED

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ENCLOSURE IS FULL PAGE ON DO'S AND DON'TS ON HUNGER STRIKE. AND PART OF LETTER IS DRAWN FROM EXPERIENCE OF THE AUTHOR WHO SAYS HE PARTICIPATED IN A SEVENTEEN DAY HUNGER STRIKE IN MEXICO CITY IN JULY, 1974. HE SAYS THE KEYWORD TO THIS HUNGER STRIKE IS UNITY AND THAT ALL AMERICANS IN MEXICAN PRISONS SHOULD PARTICIPATE. THEY MUST BE WILLING TO GO 30, 45, AND PERHAPS EVEN 60 DAYS WITHOUT EATING. THEY ARE EXHORTED TO REFUSE TO

EAT UNTIL THEY ARRIVE IN THE U.S.A. AS A PRISONER BECAUSE OF THE EXCHANGE, EVEN IF DEATH IS THE RESULT. THEY ARE TOLD TO RESIST ALL TEMPTATIONS, ALL LIES ABOUT OTHER PRISONERS EATING, AND TO DRINK BOILED OR BOTTLED WATER CONTINUALLY DURING THE STRIKE. THE WRITER SAYS QUOTE DO NOT FORGET THERE ARE SIX HUNDRED OTHER AMERICAN PRISONERS WITH YOU AND STRENGTH LIES IN UNITY UNQUOTE. THE PENULTIMATE PARAGRAPH STATES IN PART QUOTE REMEMBER THIS IS YOUR LIFE AND YOUR FUTURE. THAT IS WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT. IF THE AMERICAN PRISONERS IN MEXICO ARE WILLING TO HUNGER STRIKE UNTIL DEATH ; THEN YOU MIGHT WELL BE ABLE TO GET YOURSELVES OUT OF MEXICO. UNQUOTE. THE FINAL SENTENCE READS QUOTE GOD BLESS AND GOOD LUCK. DATE SEPTEMBER 7, 1976. UNQUOTE

6. IT IS SIGNIFICANT TO NOTE THAT THE RECEIPT OF THIS LETTER DOES NOT KNOW THE AUTHOR AND DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY HE WAS SINGLED OUT TO RECEIVE THIS LETTER. INsofar AS HE IS AWARE, NONE OF THE OTHER PRISONERS IN MAZATLAN RECEIVED THIS LETTER.
MATTHEWS

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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